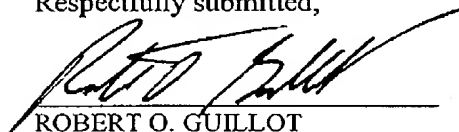


REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action, Applicant has amended the status identifiers on claims 17, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27-29. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for further consideration.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments with regard to this amendment, a telephonic conference at the number set forth below is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT O. GUILLOT

Reg. No. 28,852

Dated: April 2, 2004

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Certificate of Transmission (37 CFR 1.8)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as attached or enclosed) is being transmitted on the date shown below to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.

Via facsimile to: (703) 872-9306

April 2, 2004
(date)

(Signature of Patricia Beilmann)